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## Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

### PRAYER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Today's opening prayer will be offered by T.F. Tenney, bishop emeritus of the United Pentecostal Church International in Alexandria, LA.

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Mr. President, Members of the Senate, may the Lord be with you. Let us bow our heads in reverence to His presence.

God, our help in ages past, be our comfort still. Thank You for this great, great Nation and its foundation of "one Nation under God, indivisible." Thank you, Lord, that we can emphasize "indivisible."

Thank You for the liberty, justice, and freedoms that we enjoy. We pray for all who walk these hallowed Halls where life-changing and world-changing decisions are made.

Bless this austere gathering of men and women chosen by You and the American people to serve us all. Give them wisdom to acknowledge You first in all they do.

Give them grace, as has been extended to them. Guide them, O Holy Spirit. Guide them, O Holy Spirit. Fill them and this Chamber with Your presence and fill these Halls with Your glory.

When they leave today, may they say we have not just been in the presence of men, but we have been in the presence of God.

Now, in the Name of the One I trust, Jesus Christ, my Lord and Savior, fill this place, Holy Spirit. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Repub-

lic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PERDUE). The Senator from Louisiana.

### WELCOMING THE GUEST CHAPLAIN

Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, may I briefly acknowledge and thank Pastor and Bishop Tenney for being here.

Today is his 83rd birthday. As he told me, he has been pushing 80, but now he pulls it. He has blessed many people. He is an anointed man of God whom many others have looked toward for guidance, as a man who by his life and by his words guides them to a deeper relationship with God.

On behalf of our entire Senate, I extend our thanks to Bishop Tenney for being here today. Thank you.

I yield back.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

### LEGISLATION BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, yesterday the Senate voted overwhelmingly to take the next step in the 21st Century Cures Act, bipartisan legislation to bolster medical innovation.

This legislation promotes critical investments in research and treatment development. It helps cut through unnecessary regulations that would hinder the development of cures while also protecting safety. It builds upon the progress of innovative therapies and regenerative medicine.

This legislation puts patients first, it helps strengthen the kind of research and treatments needed to cure the most devastating diseases, and it includes provisions to help enhance mental health programs and to provide funding to help fight opioid abuse.

I have heard from health professionals across my State who have expressed the impact this legislation can make, from the Kentucky Hospital Association to the University of Kentucky, our State's largest research university.

This bill, the U.K. president says, reflects the "growing support from Congress for increased investment in research that addresses the compelling questions of our day." I will be pleased to welcome U.K. President Capilouto to the Capitol this morning. He says Cures is one example of how the university will be better equipped "to improve the lives of those in our Commonwealth."

We know this bill wouldn't have been possible without Chairman ALEXANDER's ceaseless efforts, alongside Ranking Member MURRAY, to drive it forward.

We thank them both, as well as Members such as Senator CORNYN, Senator HATCH, and Senator CASSIDY, who have all endeavored to make the bill the strongest it could be.

I also recognize my friend Vice President BIDEN—who joined us yesterday—for his efforts to include his Cancer Moonshot issue in the package. This is an issue that hits close to home for the Vice President, as we all know. He has been a leading voice in supporting efforts to strengthen cancer research and to find a cure. I am pleased we will pass this legislation soon so we can begin to put its provisions to work on behalf of American families.

On the other important issues before the Senate, I have spoken with the Speaker on a number of occasions about an issue facing coal miner retirees, such as those I represent in Kentucky, and have insisted that the CR include a provision to address that issue so these retirees don't lose their health care benefits at the end of the year. We hope to have a final bill to share with Members soon, and we look

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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